

Remarks

Claims 34-57 are pending in the application. Claims 34, 38, 40-42, 44, 45, 49, 51-53, 55, and 56 are amended to put a sharper point on their recitation of the invention. Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of all claims in view of such clarifying amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejection

Claims 34-38, 45-49, 56, and 57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Hull et al., U.S. 5,806,870. Applicant traverses the rejection – particularly in view of the above amendments – and requests that it be withdrawn.

As clarified/sharpened by the present amendments, and as explained in the specification, the invention provides an extension device that can be used to increase the overall length of a vehicle. To that end, the claim-recited extension device is adapted to maintain front and rear vehicle sections in spaced apart relationship while, at the same time, permitting the vehicle sections to pivot relative to each other about a horizontal, longitudinally oriented (with respect to the overall vehicle) axis.

That is not what Hull discloses. All Hull discloses is a pivot joint between front and rear chassis sections 12, 14. Unlike the present invention, in Hull, the chassis sections are not longitudinally spaced apart. Thus, Hull does not anticipate the claimed invention – the extension device, *per se*, or a vehicle incorporating the extension device – and Applicant requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 39-43 and 50-54 are indicated to be directed to allowable subject matter. In view of the foregoing, however, Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance, and timely Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

The undersigned representative requests any extension of time that may be deemed necessary to further the prosecution of this application.

The undersigned representative authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 14-1437, referencing Attorney Docket No.: 7589.342.PCUS00.

In order to facilitate the resolution of any issues or questions presented by this paper, the Examiner may directly contact the undersigned by phone to further the discussion.

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Respectfully submitted,

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